cases, further processing can be done only after deficiencies are removed by the tax payers. Moreover, a large number of applictions have been received in the recent months, which are being processed for allotment of PAN.

(c) and (d) Allotment of PAN to the remaining applicants was proposed to be completed by August-September, 1999. The main reasons for not being able to adhere to the time limit proposed by the Department are given in reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

(c) The work of allotment of Permanent Account Numbers is in full swing and all out efforts are being made for expeditious allotment of PAN to the applicants. Wide publicity is also being given on the subject by the Department requesting the applicants to reply to the deficiency letters sent to them.

Fall in Inflow of NRI Investments

1302. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inflow of NRI investments has been falling progressively since 1996-97 despite a number of concessions extended to them; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the NRI investments since 1995-96 till date and the reasons for the falling trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) While there had been a decline in NRI direct investments during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998, on the basis of the information available till the end of October this year, the investments during 1999 will be higher than 1998. The decline in trend in NRI direct investment schemes could be attributed to general recession in the global markets and similar sentiments in the domestic markets.

The year-wise inflow details in investment schemes by NRIs from 1995-96 are as follows:

1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000* *provisional
Rs. Crores	Rs. Crores	Rs. Crores	Rs. Crores	Rs. Crores
1977.61	1871.10	878.35	272.70	196.54(Oct)

Introduction of Pan Type Codes in Customs and Excise Deptt.

1303. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce PAN type codes in customs and excise Department;

(b) if so, what are the specialities in the scheme;

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) what will be the total expenditure involved in implementing this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Government has decided that all persons dealing with various regulatory agencies, such as the Central Excise and Customs Department, Income Tax Department, Offices of Director General of Foreign Trade etc. should be identified with reference to a common identification number in order to facilitate sharing/ exchange of information using computers, especially checking of credentials of a person dealing with these Departments. Accordingly, Central Board of Excise and Customs has issued instructions for issue of new Excise Control Code Number (New ECC) based on Permanent Account Number (PAN) issued by Income Tax Department, which will be brought in use with effect from 1st January, 2000 simultaneously with the old ECC, and will be used exclusively with effect from 1st April, 2000. The work of